



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Disposition of a U.S. Citizen's Remains in British Columbia and Yukon

Part I.

The following information is submitted in accordance with current regulations to provide data on Canadian laws and practices on the disposition of remains in the Consulate General consular district, which comprises British Columbia and Yukon.

Part II. U.S. Consulate Information

U.S. Consulate General Vancouver

Physical Address: 1075 West Pender Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6E 2M6

Mailing Address: 112 – 1231 Pacific Blvd, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6Z 0E2

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[State Department Country Specific Information](#)

[State Department Travel Information](#)

[Smart Travel Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website "[Background Note: Canada](#)"

Religion in Canada encompasses a wide range of denominations. Religious activities for Visitors: English and French language services are available throughout all provinces. The majorities of religions represented in Canada include but are not limited to the following: Roman Catholicism, Anglican, Baptist, Judaism, Jehovah Witness, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Local places of worship offer a variety of fellowship for all age groups and combined programs to provide services for the benefit of the foreign community in the area.

Profile of Religions and Religious Services in British Columbia available to visitors:

Religions	BC	Yukon
Christian	44.6%	46.1%
Sikh	4.7%	0.3%
Buddhist	2.1%	0.9%
Muslim	1.8%	0.5%
Hindu	1.1%	0.5%
Jewish	0.5%	0.06%
Aboriginal Religions	0.2%	1.2%
Other	0.8%	0.9%
No Religious Affiliation	44.1%	49.9%

Statistics Canada 2013

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in British Columbia and Yukon:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, Canada assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians, and other service providers.

Province of British Columbia

- This [link](#) provides a list to all funeral homes in British Columbia

Territory of Yukon - Yukon currently has one funeral home

- [Heritage North Funeral Home](#)
412 Cook Street, Whitehorse Yukon
Phone: (867) 668-4484
Fax: (867) 668-4944
Email: service@heritagenorth.ca

PART V. Profile of services available in British Columbia and Yukon regarding preparation and shipment of remains.

Maximum Period Before Burial

There are no laws in British Columbia or Yukon requiring burial within a prescribed period of time. After 72 hours, the body can be held in cold storage, either embalmed or in a permanently sealed casket, until a decision regarding disposition is made. The only exception is when a person dies of a contagious disease.

Embalming

All full-service licensed funeral providers in British Columbia and Yukon either have embalming facilities or access to them, though embalming is not required by Canadian law.

Cremation

A person must not present human remains for cremation unless the remains are enclosed in a container that is of sufficient strength to hold and conveniently transfer the remains, prevents the remains from posing a health hazard, and meets the requirements set out in the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act. An operator of a crematorium must not cremate human remains within 48 hours after the time of death unless the operator is ordered to do so by a medical officer under the *Public Health Act*.

Caskets and Containers

Unless permitted by the regulations, a funeral provider and an operator must not refuse to accept or handle a container to enclose human remains that meets the requirements of the regulations and any requirements under the *Public Health Act*. *Natural* or *Green Burials* are also permitted in various cemeteries in the province of British Columbia and the territory of Yukon, which offers an environmentally friendly alternative for the body to be naturally recycled without the use of a casket or container.

Exportation of Remains

A death certificate is required for the exportation of human remains and a coroner's shipping certificate must be attached to the head of the casket. When cremated remains are to be shipped, a declaration is included along with the cremation certificate. Where overseas shipment is necessary, a copy of the burial permit and coroner's shipping certificate must accompany the body or cremated remains. Most established funeral homes are able to arrange for interprovincial and international transfers.

Funeral Costs (Prices listed in U.S. Dollars unless noted otherwise)

The average Funeral Costs in British Columbia range anywhere from \$1,200-\$9,000. Licensed funeral providers are required to display the current itemized price list of goods and services. The professional service fee funeral directors charge usually covers transportation of the deceased, death certificate, registration and all the necessary documents. The following cost estimates are from a survey of British Columbia funeral homes and should be used for illustrative purposes only.

There are approximately 264 licensed cemeteries in B.C and approximately 44 licensed cemeteries in Yukon, ranging from single gravesites to large commercial cemeteries. Interment charges, casket costs and other funeral services vary greatly from place to place. The following prices are rough averages and should be used for illustrative purposes only:

	British Columbia (est. avg)	Yukon (est. avg)
Death Certificate	\$27 CAD (\$21.16 USD) mail delivery, prints within 2-5 business days +mailing time) \$60 CAD (\$47 USD) courier delivery, prints the next business day +mailing time)	\$10 CAD (\$7.84 USD)
Basic Professional Service	\$600 – \$1,100	\$600 – \$1,100
Adult Grave Space	\$8,000 - \$29,000	\$8,000
Child Grave Space (up to age of 3)	Funeral homes often have a compassionate policy for child deaths.	Funeral homes often have a compassionate policy for child deaths.
Casket / Urns	\$0 - \$2000 and up	\$0 - \$2000 and up
Cremation	\$450+	\$450+
Interment charge (open and close grave)	\$1,500 and up	\$1,000 (direct burial, no services)
Burial Plots and Niches	\$1,000 - \$25,000	\$9,000
Embalming charge	\$375 - \$525	\$375 - \$525

**Prices listed in U.S. Dollars unless noted*

Charges based on the exchange rate of September 22, 2021: \$1.00 USD = \$1.28 CAD

Most remains are shipped by air as there are no longer any baggage cars on trains going to the U.S. from B.C. or the Yukon. Cremated remains should be shipped by air cargo. Following are the representative charges for shipment by remains by air as of June 2019 by Air Canada

Human Remains Shipping Charges (USD):

Vancouver to Los Angeles	\$860
Vancouver to Miami	\$1025
Vancouver to New York	\$1150
Vancouver to Chicago	\$1025
Vancouver to Denver	\$1025

Cremated Remains Shipping Charges (USD):

An alternative to shipping the deceased's body is to ship cremated remains. Courier companies will not knowingly ship cremated remains however you can use any of Canada Post's trackable parcel services as long as the following are ensured:

- The destination and return addresses are correct and complete.
- The cremated remains are packed in a sealed container and put inside a sift-proof outer container
- They are accompanied by a certificate of cremation that's issued by an appropriate authority (such as a funeral director), placed inside a plastic envelope, and attached to the top of the parcel.

Prices range from \$150-\$225 depending on the weight and/or service selected.

Yukon

Remains are usually brought to Whitehorse via automotive service rather than by air. Cases requiring autopsy are forwarded to Vancouver as per a joint agreement between the Yukon and B.C. Coroners Services.

Charges for preparation of remains for shipment outside the Territory including professional fees, embalming, wooden flight casket, and hermetically sealed liner (for international shipments) is approximately \$ 3,650.00.

Currently, the nearest cremation facility is in the Vancouver area. The charge for cremation services including a basic plywood cremation casket is approximately \$ 3,000. Funeral homes charge approximately \$1.25 per kilometer for travel outside the Whitehorse area. Airlines charge approximately \$ 1.30 per pound plus surcharges for forwarding human remains to the final destination in Yukon. The current cost for a plot including opening and closing at Grey Mountain Cemetery, which is in Whitehorse, would be \$2,166.

Exhumation and Shipment

The Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act specifies who has the right to make decisions about exhumation or disinterment of the body of a deceased person. The Director, Consumer Protection BC requires that the person who has legal authority to make such decisions sign written authorization. Written authorization signed by the person who has the right to make such decisions must be submitted to the cemetery responsible for the disinterment/exhumation. The Director must issue a permit to the operator and a funeral provider must receive the remains from the operator after the lot has been opened, unless the remains are to be reinterred within the same cemetery or mausoleum. The approximate cost for exhuming an adult casket is \$1,500 and \$350 for exhuming cremated remains. For shipping costs of disinterred remains please see section above.

Autopsy

An autopsy is a medical procedure that consists of a thorough examination performed on a body after death, to evaluate disease or injury that may be present and to determine the cause and manner of a person's death.

The coroner or medical examiner has the legal authority to order an autopsy without the consent of the deceased person's family (next of kin). This may occur when there has been a sudden or unexpected death of a person not under the care of a doctor, car crash, drug overdose, poisoning, suicide, murder, or other circumstances defined by law. If an autopsy is not required by law, it cannot be performed unless the deceased person's family gives permission. In this situation the person requesting the autopsy would be liable for all expenses.

Cases requiring autopsy in Yukon are forwarded to Vancouver as per a joint agreement between the Yukon and B.C. Coroners Services.

Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

Local customs and procedures are virtually identical to those found in the United States.